

Shota's Isekai NTR Adventure #Chapter 881: Exchanging flesh - Read Shota's Isekai NTR Adventure Chapter 881: Exchanging flesh

Chapter 881: Exchanging flesh

If I had to say how I felt...I couldn't say that I felt confident.

After all, this was the one thing that I had been worried about when I made the decision to come here.

I did know that the way to establish this contract was to exchange flesh with the mermaid, but I didn't know the exact details of that. That was because this was a scene that was skipped over in the game.

It would result in a scene change with a HP drop that wasn't too bad, but it never showed specifically how that flesh was exchanged.

Was it cutting off a finger, a piece of one's flesh, or was it something completely different?

I thought that I had made up my mind already when I made the decision to come looking for the mermaid, but now that it was right in front of me...I had to admit that I couldn't help hesitating.

I don't think that there would be anyone in this world who wouldn't hesitate in a situation like this.

After all, it was scary.

That's right, I could admit that it was scary.

But I had to think that it wasn't just scary for me, it had to be scary for the mermaid as well since it wasn't as if I was the only one who would be offering my flesh up. There was a reason why it was called an exchange of flesh instead of just called an offering of flesh.

To my surprise, I found that the mermaid didn't seem afraid at all.

She just looked up at me with an expectant look, as if she was waiting to see how I would respond.

This mermaid either had nerves of steel or she wasn't certain of what was going to happen. I had to assume that it was the latter rather than the former.

Still, since she was willing to go through with it, I would be willing to go through with it as well.

I needed the help of this mermaid after all.

The Tide Empire was backed by the Merman Empire, so the best way to ensure that the Tide Empire wasn't able to do anything to us was by making a connection to the Merman Empire.

This mermaid was the best connection one could make since she had a hidden identity that no one else knew about.

I only knew because she was the same mermaid from the game.

Taking a deep breath, I asked, "How do we do this?"

The mermaid was surprised by the determination that I showed, but then she said with a wide smile, "It's very simple, we can just eat a part of each other's flesh."

The terrifying words that came out of her mouth didn't match the sweet appearance that she had as she said them. The way that she looked up with a smile really made her seem like a cute girl from next door.

I really couldn't help feeling a bit afraid of her because of this, but I suppressed that feeling as I said, "How much do we need to cut?"

This time, the mermaid revealed a confused and surprised look when she heard this.

She looked up at me with a strange look, as if I had said something wrong, but I didn't feel like I had said anything strange.

After looking up at me like that for a bit, she finally said, "Just a small piece of skin is enough, you want to cut more?"

The way that she said this was almost as if she was implying that I was someone that enjoyed the pain of being cut... It was like she was implying that I was some kind of glutton for punishment...

It was made even worse when she suddenly said, "Could it be that you're some kind of masochist?"

She followed it up by saying, "I've heard about these humans on land before, but I never thought that I would meet one in person. Then should I..."

I didn't want to hear the rest of what she was going to say.

My face already looked ugly when she called me a M, especially when I saw the way that my wives were looking at me.

This was definitely not the way that one wanted to be looked at by their significant other. So I cut her off with, "It's my first time doing something like this. It's not as if I've done this before, so I don't know what I'm supposed to do. You're the mermaid here, aren't you supposed to explain your race's special contract magic?"

The mermaid was surprised by this sudden outburst from me, but she eventually nodded in agreement with a smile on her face before saying, "Right, you're just a human who doesn't know anything. All we need to do is eat a small piece of flesh from each other, so a small flap of skin is enough."

I shook my head with a bitter smile.

A small flap of skin...that was still quite terrifying...

But at least now we knew what to do.

I had the shadows prepare a small rowboat that was attached to the side of the ship which we dropped down right beside the mermaid with me in it. However, it wasn't just me alone who was on that rowboat.

Standing behind me were five girls who insisted on coming.

Though if it wasn't for the five of them, then the shadows might have insisted on coming too. When the mermaid saw the small rowboat beside her, she said with a smile, "This is perfect." Without any hesitation, she climbed into the rowboat, though she almost tipped us over with her strength. If it wasn't for Cecilia's quick reactions, then she might have actually tipped us over when she climbed over the side of the rowboat.

Cecilia was able to stop us from tipping over by putting force on the other side to balance her out.

Once she was in, both the mermaid and I held a dagger which we brought to our own arm.

Chapter 882: Mermaid princess

After a moment of hesitation, the two of us both sliced off a tiny piece of skin from our arms. There was a small spurt of blood, but it didn't last long since Moon was there to heal us with her magic.

The wound wasn't that big in the first place since we had only cut off a small piece, so it healed almost instantly with Moon's healing magic. In no time at all, there was no trace of the cut left behind.

When it was done, we exchanged the piece of skin that we cut off, but...

Neither of us put it in our mouths.

After all, it wasn't as if we had ever eaten something like this.

A piece of skin wasn't something that could be considered appetizing, especially when it was raw skin that was cut off a person right in front of them. Doing something like that definitely made things less appetizing.

It was like seeing your meat being butchered and prepared in front of you.

It wasn't a good sight for one's stomach.

After a moment of silence, I took a deep breath and put her skin in my mouth.

I didn't even bother chewing as I forced myself to swallow, but it wasn't as if I could ignore the taste of it that spread through my mouth.

Fishy, that was the taste of her skin.

Though she was a mermaid that spent most of her time underwater, so it wouldn't be strange if her skin had a fishy taste to it.

There was also a slight taste of iron, which came from the blood that was on her skin. That just went to show how fresh it was, so fresh that it had been a part of a living being just a minute ago.

After seeing me eat her skin, the mermaid didn't hesitate to do the same thing as me.

The twisting of her face made it clear that she didn't appreciate the taste of me and I couldn't help feeling strange about this. There was a part of me that even wondered why I didn't taste good.

Was that normal for when someone ate a piece of you?

I had no idea, but there was that thought that passed through my mind.

After she swallowed the piece of my skin, there were bubbles that appeared on her skin...or rather on her scales. These bubbles only seemed to appear on the scales of her lower half.

Neither the mermaid nor I panicked when we saw this, but my wives couldn't help panicking. Moon was the one that stepped forward in the end.

She had her hand raised and there was already mana gathering in her hands, as if she was prepared to use a healing spell. At the same time, she asked, "What's wrong?"

There was no hiding the concern in her voice which touched the mermaid, but the mermaid calmly said, "Don't worry, this is normal."

Though she said this, she didn't really know if this was normal since this was her first time doing something like this. She had only heard about this contract magic before, she never knew if it would actually work or not.

But she didn't want to give up the chance to chase after her dream, so she seized this chance when it was offered to her.

After the bubbles came from her for a bit, the scales seemed to disappear.

It was as if the scales were turning into bubbles themselves.

Then the tail seemed to split in half before turning into a pair of legs that didn't have a single scale on them. All of the scales that had been on her tails had turned into bubbles and disappeared without a trace.

Finally, the bubbles completely disappeared and all that was left were a pair of human legs.

The mermaid didn't move after all of the bubbles disappeared.

It wasn't that she wasn't able to move, it was that she didn't know how to move.

She was a mermaid, so it wasn't as if she had ever used human legs before.

None of us moved forward to help her since we didn't know what she needed right now, or if we could actually help her. It seemed like it was better to leave it to her to slowly figure out how to use those new human legs of hers.

And that was what she did.

The mermaid slowly reached down to touch her human legs before revealing an excited look.

The first thing that she did after revealing that excited look was swing her legs around. However, since this was just a small rowboat...

"Ow!"

That was her scream of pain from kicking the bottom of the rowboat with her legs swinging at full force. She naturally wasn't able to crack the boat, but there was no doubt that she hurt her heel from that.

Seeing this, I shook my head and gave a look to Moon.

She understood the look that I gave her and went forward to use a healing spell on the mermaid's foot.

Feeling the pain disappear, the mermaid looked up with a grateful look to say, "Thank you."

Moon just gave a simple nod before moving back over to where we were.

The mermaid played around with her new legs a bit longer before turning to me to say, "Thank you for helping me with this. If there's anything that I can repay you with, then don't hesitate to ask."

A faint smile appeared on my lips when I heard this before I said, "Well, truth be told, I didn't help without any expectations."

The mermaid narrowed her eyes to look at me for a bit before relaxing them and giving a nod to say, "Well that's to be expected. There's no free meal in this world."

She slowly stood up and reached her hand out before saying, "I've never introduced myself before. I'm Ariel, the princess of the Merman Empire."

Chapter 883: Many princesses

Ariel just said this with a proud look on her face, as if this was something that everyone should take note of.

Though it wasn't as if she was wrong about that.

If it was anyone else, then this was certainly something to be shocked by and to take careful note of.

It was just that it wasn't that shocking for us since we were used to this kind of thing. Well, it wasn't as shocking for me since I already knew about this, but it was certainly still surprising for the others since they never expected something like this.

They never thought that the mermaid that we had rescued would turn out to be a princess.

There was a look that appeared on Ariel's face that made it seem like she was proud of the way that they looked at her, but that look soon disappeared when she saw the calm way that I was looking at her.

Ariel could tell that it seemed like this human wasn't impressed by the fact that she was a princess, which made her a bit unhappy.

It wasn't just because it hurt her pride a bit that she was unhappy about this, but also because she wanted to use this chance to increase her value.

After all, a princess would always have more value than someone who wasn't a princess.

There was something that this human needed from her, so it was always good to have more value.

The hit to her pride came second...

"Why aren't you that surprised?" Ariel suddenly asked.

The way that she was looking at me made it clear that this question was aimed at me.

A faint smile appeared on my lips when I heard this, but it wasn't as if I could answer this question in a truthful manner.

The only thing that I could do was give an excuse that I had already come up with.

"Well, there are plenty of princesses here that it just isn't surprising anymore." I said in a calm voice.

"Other princesses?" A look of surprise and confusion appeared on Ariel's face when she heard this before looking around at my wives to ask, "Do you mean them?"

I gave a nod before gesturing to Angela, "She is the princess of this human kingdom that you've drifted into."

Ariel was surprised again when she heard this, but the way that she looked at Angela changed. It was as if she had found someone that she could sympathize with.

Though it didn't seem like she stopped to consider whether Angela would be able to match up to her. She was the princess of the Merman Empire that ruled the entire underwater world, while Angela was just the princess of a small human country.

Comparing the two, it should be clear who has the greater status between the two of them. But it didn't seem like Ariel cared at all.

It seemed that Ariel had been raised in quite the free spirited manner.

After introducing Angela, I also introduced Elsa.

"She is the princess of the Dwarven Kingdom."

Ariel's eyes seemed to light up more than when she heard about Angela.

She looked right at Elsa and said, "The dwarves! I've heard about them before! It's said that the dwarves are the most talented when it comes to crafting!"

The way that she said this made Elsa feel a bit embarrassed, but she was also a bit proud that her people were well known enough that even the underwater residents knew about them.

Going from there, I gestured to Moon and said, "This is the granddaughter of one of the elven villages in our kingdom, so she is like a princess for the elves."

Ariel's reaction was completely different when it came to Moon.

Instead of being excited about seeing her, she just narrowed her eyes to look at Moon before saying, "One of the descendants of the high elves."

Moon slowly gave a nod without being too surprised by the fact that Ariel knew this.

I was surprised at first at how differently Ariel treated Moon compared to Elsa, but then I remembered something from the game that explained this.

Simply put, the mermaids already had contact with the elves before.

They had once been allied with each other during the race wars and had been quite close before, so it wasn't as if the elves and mermaids didn't know about the existence of each other.

It was also said in the lore of the game that they had broken this relationship during the race wars for an unknown reason.

The unknown reason part was because the devs had been too lazy to put it in the lore, which was why I was a bit worried seeing them like this.

However, Moon just gave a calm nod before saying, "I am indeed one of the descendants of the high elves."

The two of them just looked at each other for a bit before they looked away again.

It seemed that even if the relationship between the elves and mermaids had broken up, it didn't seem like there was a bad relationship that replaced it. It seemed that they at least tolerated each other to the point where they didn't hate each other.

Once she had finished looking at my wives, Ariel slowly turned back to me and said, "Well, it seems that with this group, you really don't need to be surprised by the fact that I'm a princess." But then she said in a sharp voice, "Only, who are you that all of these important people would hang around you?"

I gave a chuckle when I heard this before saying, "Well, I'm the king of the human kingdom that you decided to come to."

"Huh?" Ariel was taken aback when she heard this.

She looked at me as if she was trying to figure out if I was being serious or not, but I just calmly looked at her without turning away.

After a while, Ariel said, "Oh."

It seemed that she really didn't know how to react to this.

Chapter 884: Freak show

It was better to say that she was all out of surprise to react to this.

She had experienced many new things today that had completely caught her off guard, so Ariel no longer had the surprised feeling to react to all of this.

So she just seemed like she calmly accepted it all.

But there was something that Ariel still had to ask in the end.

"But it doesn't seem like the relationship between all of you is normal. Why does it seem like they're closer to you, more than just having a normal relationship?"

Another chuckle came from me as I said, "Well, that's because we're all married. They are all my wives."

The five of them nodded in agreement to this as smiles slowly crept onto their faces.

It was as if they were very pleased to be introduced as Zwein's wife.

Though there was also a trace of bitterness that was in the eyes of four of them since it had taken them quite a bit of time to become that. The only one that acted normally was Cecilia.

Ariel was surprised to hear this, but she didn't refute it.

Rather, it seemed like she accepted it quite easily.

She could see that they were happy, so there was nothing that she had to say about it.

This was a world that accepted polygamy after all since it was a game that was based on the H-game.

Once she got her answer for this, it seemed like Ariel was already done with her questions about us. Instead, there was something else that she suddenly asked.

"So what do we do now?"

The way that she said this made it seem like she was prepared to come with us.

I had no idea what she had been planning to do after we made this contract. After all, even if I knew from my knowledge of the game that she would usually follow the one that formed the contract with her, she was still a living person in this world.

The events of the game had changed in this world and she was a person with her own thoughts, so she could have decided to go on her own.

But it seemed that I was able to convince her to come with us in the end.

That was the real reason why I had said all of that in the first place.

I wanted her to understand what position I had in this kingdom so that she would feel assured

in coming with me. After all, there was nothing better than having a big backer when coming to a new land.

There was no one that could be a bigger backer than me when it came to this kingdom.

So I was obviously the right choice to make.

I just calmly said, "We're heading back to port, do you want to come with us?"

Ariel's eyes opened wide with excitement when she heard this, but she quickly controlled herself and just gave a simple nod.

The way that she gave this nod was almost as if this didn't matter to her at all, but there was no hiding the expression that she had revealed earlier.

It was clear that she was excited to visit the human town.

Though that wasn't strange since she was someone who had come all this way to make a contract with someone to become a human. It was clear that she was someone who was very interested in humans, though no one really knew why she was that into humans.

Before we could climb onto the ship though, Ariel suddenly asked, "Right, you said that you wanted a favour from me for helping with the contract. What favour did you want to ask of me?"

I looked at her with a faint smile and said, "This is something that will take some time, so how about we discuss it once we're back on land?"

Ariel raised a brow when she heard this, but after looking at me for a bit, she still said, "Alright."

It seemed that I had at least made a good impression on her that she would trust me to this extent.

The shadows were naturally surprised to see Ariel coming back with us.

They hadn't seen what had happened in the rowboat, so they could only ask my wives for what happened. It seemed like not a single one of them wanted to ask me.

It wasn't that they didn't trust me...it was that they looked at me like they were saying...

"It's your responsibility to take care of her."

As for who the 'her' that they were referring to was... It was naturally Ariel.

It was like they had suddenly deemed me to be her babysitter.

There was nothing that I could say about this, but it certainly was a strange feeling having this task forced onto me.

Once they finished hearing the story from my wives, all of the shadows looked at me with strange looks.

I was used to these looks.

These were the same looks that I received when I led the army in the war.

It was the way that someone looked at a person that they considered completely unnatural.

It was the way that they looked at a freak.

There was a small part of me that felt bitter about this, but I didn't hold it against them since what I had done was really abnormal.

Ariel also saw this, so she leaned in and whispered, "Are you a tyrant? It doesn't seem like your subordinates like you very much."

I felt even more bitter when I heard this, but I didn't say a thing.

I just looked at the shadows and said with a sigh, "Stop wasting time, let's go back. We're done here."

They all looked at Ariel one more time when they heard this before nodding in response.

Since the water monster that had been causing trouble had been dealt with, this matter certainly was over.

But they were worried about bringing this water monster back with them...

Their king really made life hard for them sometimes.

Chapter 885: First time on land

We hadn't spent that long on the river, so the chubby dock manager was still there when we came back.

Seeing the ship come back, he immediately ran over to check on it.

Though the way that he acted, it seemed like he was more worried about us than the ship.

It was just that we could see his eyes drifting over to the ship from time to time as if he was checking up on it. No, even without that, there was something else that gave him away.

"My lord, I'm so glad that you're...back. I was so...worried this whole time!"

There were those strange pauses in between his words that came when he looked over at the ship to check on it.

It seemed that this chubby dock manager really didn't know how to divide his attention...

We just ignored it since we knew why he was worried about the ship, even more than our lives. It was his job to care about these things and even before that, the ship was something that many people relied on to make a living.

If it was damaged, then many people would have suffered for sure.

So it was only normal that he checked that the ship was alright.

It was just that he couldn't do it openly while we were still here.

However, he didn't get to keep going for long as someone lost their patience.

"Move out of the way!"

I heard this soft and beautiful voice coming from the ship.

It wasn't just me who heard this, but everyone else heard it as well.

My wives who were with me shook their heads with bitter smiles, but the chubby dock manager had a different expression on his face. He looked like he had fallen into a daze when he heard this voice.

It was like his soul had been pulled out of his body, just like the shadows had looked when they first heard this voice singing.

Even though it was shouting, even though it wasn't singing, there was still a charming tone to it.

This was just the natural charm that mermaids had in their voices.

The owner of this voice was Ariel who pushed her way past the shadows that were trying to stop her. Even though they had been trying to stop her, it wasn't as if they dared to use actual force since she was now a state guest.

So she was able to make her way past them easily and come down the gangplank to reach the dock.

The moment that she reached the dock, she stood still for a few seconds before reaching her hands up into the air and shouting, "This is it! This is the feeling of walking on land!"

She didn't stop with just this as she started running around on the dock, looking at all the different things that were here.

It was a good thing that there was no one else here, or they would have certainly thought that Ariel was an idiot.

At the same time, the chubby dock manager still seemed to be in a daze because of her voice, so he didn't really notice the things that she did.

The only ones that looked at her with looks like their world views had been shattered were the shadows and my wives. They looked like they were disappointed with her display, as if their image of mermaids had been shattered.

It couldn't be helped since Ariel was a special case in the first place.

There were many mermaids that were this interested in humans and the land to begin with.

The reason that we didn't bring her down right away was simple.

She was the monster that had caused all that trouble along the Kleen River and had caused all that trouble for this town. So we wanted to bring her into the town without anyone noticing just in case they put the two together.

We couldn't let anything happen to Ariel now since she was an important guest, so we had to take precautions.

It was just too bad that the one that this all revolved around didn't seem to care.

Shaking my head with a sigh, I said, "Stop messing around and come over here."

It didn't seem like Ariel heard me the first time that I said this as she kept running around, so I had no choice but to say it a second time. This time, she heard me and slowly walked back over with an unhappy look on her face.

It was like she was a child that was unhappy that her playtime had been interrupted.

I shook my head again and gave another sigh before saying, "Don't get lost, we're going into the town now. You can see many more different things later once we go into town."

The unhappy look that was on Ariel's face quickly disappeared when she heard this and she just as quickly gave a nod of agreement before looking towards the buildings in the distance. I gave another sigh before saying to one of the shadows, "Take care of the ship." He gave a nod before going over to the chubby dock manager. He wrapped his arm around the shoulder of the chubby dock manager and started bringing him over towards the office.

The chubby dock manager was still in a bit of a daze because of Ariel's voice.

Seeing this, I realized that I should probably take care of this before anything else.

So I pulled out a notebook and a pen which I handed over to Ariel.

"What is this?" she asked in a confused voice, but she still took them and looked at them carefully. She looked even more confused when she saw that this book was blank.

I said, "Don't speak from now on. Just write what you want to say in this book."

Ariel was naturally unhappy about this, but I explained it to her.

"If you talk and expose yourself, don't you think that it'll cause quite a bit of trouble. You won't be able to enjoy your time on land when the time comes."

Ariel had to admit that I was right, but it still looked like she was unhappy about this.

So I comforted her by saying, "It's just a temporary measure. We'll think of a way to solve this

later, alright?"

She just gave a simple nod, but it didn't seem like it cheered her up.

Chapter 886: Crazy merchants (1)

When we walked into the town, the unhappy mood disappeared without a trace.

Ariel's eyes opened wide and she excitedly looked around.

I had been worried that she would forget what I had said and would start talking, but it seemed that she was too excited for that.

However, it wasn't as if we could just let her run around on her own.

So I had made sure to put Cecilia, Moon, and Veronica by her side so that they would be able to control her if anything happened. They were already holding her arms just in case she tried to run off, but it didn't seem like that would happen.

The look on her face made it seem like her brain had short circuited from the excitement that she was feeling, so it didn't seem like she was going to run off on her own.

It was like a kid going to an amusement park for the first time.

They were just too stunned by the sights to move or make a sound.

But I knew that this was temporary, so I gave a look to Cecilia, Moon, and Veronica to make sure to hold her properly for when she recovered.

I knew that it was only a matter of time before she came back to her senses.

As expected, Ariel tried to run off when she came back to her senses, but she was already being held so she couldn't do anything. Then when she realized that she was being held, she opened her mouth as if she was about to complain, but she couldn't say anything in the end.

They were using one hand each to hold her, so they had another hand free for this situation.

All of them covered her mouth so that she wouldn't be able to say anything.

Ariel looked at the three holding her with an aggrieved look, but Cecilia just calmly said, "As long as you don't run off and you write what you want to say, we'll let you go."

Ariel didn't look happy about this at first, but she eventually agreed to these terms. The first thing that she did after she was released was, "Why are you doing this?" Cecilia just calmly said, "We're making sure that you don't cause any trouble." "Isn't this going too far?" Ariel wrote with an aggrieved look on her face.

Cecilia once again calmly said, "If you cause too much trouble, do you think that you'll be allowed to stay here?"

Ariel was taken aback when she heard this.

She looked like she wanted to write something, but her hand hesitated as if she didn't know what to write.

In the end, she just simply wrote, "Alright, you win."

With the defeated look that was on her face, it seemed like she was finally willing to listen and follow even though she was filled with excitement.

I couldn't help shaking my head with a faint smile when I saw this.

This was like a kid that was completely defeated by their parents' logic that they couldn't say anything.

All of us couldn't help looking at Ariel with pity when we saw her like this since all of us had experienced what she had experienced before. It wasn't as if we wanted her to suffer in the first place since we were quite entertained seeing her act like a child exploring the town for the first time.

So I should at least throw her a bone.

"Let's go and check out the market. I'm sure that there are many things there that you've never seen before."

The moment that Ariel heard this, her eyes once again lit up with excitement again.

She looked at me like a little puppy that was receiving a treat.

There was the urge to pet her on the head that filled me, but I was sure that would just cause misunderstandings if I were to actually do that. So I just held myself back in the end and waved my hand to say, "Let's go."

Ariel happily followed behind me, but...

I didn't actually know where the market in this town was, so it was actually one of the shadows that led us.

The shadows hadn't disappeared like before since now they were openly guarding us.

I didn't send them away either since we now had a state guest with us.

It was only right that we had proper security because of that.

Once we arrived at the market, I couldn't help being surprised by the scene that was in front of

us.

This was a scene that I had never seen before, even with all the time that I've spent in this world.

The only word that could describe this was...

Crazy.

These merchants had completely gone crazy with the way that they were acting.

There weren't that many people in the market and it could be understood why.

That was because all those that came to the market were completely swarmed by merchants who wanted to peddle their goods.

We weren't an exception to this, but we had proper guards so the merchants weren't able to approach us at all. Though the way that they tried to approach us had even more fervor than when they tried to approach the other people that visited the market.

Perhaps it was because they could see that I was much richer than the others that were at this market.

After all, I was the only one that arrived with an escort like this.

So I had to have a certain amount of status to have this kind of escort.

The way that the merchants looked at us was like they were hunters that were looking at prey.

They looked like they were on the hunt for money.

But it didn't make any sense at all as to why they were so desperate...

Or at least I didn't understand why they were acting like this at first.

It didn't take long for me to realize what the reason was.

Chapter 887: Crazy merchants (2)

Simply put, they were just desperate to sell their goods.

That didn't really seem like a good explanation for the crazy way that the merchants acted, but it was the main reason why they were acting like this.

The biggest factor was the fact that they weren't able to transport their goods because of the water monster that was in the Kleen River.

As such, they had no choice but to find another way to get rid of their goods.

It wasn't enough to sell it to the villages in the surrounding area since there were only so many villagers and there were so many merchants that were here. Many of them had similar goods, so it wasn't as if all of them could sell to the villagers in the surrounding area.

At the same time, it wasn't as if the villagers would even be able to buy all of their goods in the first place.

So their only hope was the market in this town.

This town was a place that many people passed through, so there was the chance that someone would buy the items that they had.

Though they were ignoring the fact that most people were merchants that most likely had the same goods as them since they wanted to sell them to other places with the same needs. It wasn't as if they would need to buy goods that they already had...

At this point, they were just desperate to get rid of the goods that they couldn't sell.

That was why they were all going crazy like this.

I couldn't help feeling a bit awkward since I was related to this matter.

It wasn't as if I was the one that had caused this problem.

Rather, I was even the one that had solved this problem by taking care of Ariel who was attacking the merchant ships.

It was just that I felt awkward bringing the cause of all this trouble to this market.

The funny thing was that the cause of these problems didn't seem concerned at all as she watched the merchants going crazy with an amused look on her face.

She even said under her breath, "Humans really are interesting. There are all kinds of humans, aren't there?"

It was unknown whether this was because she wasn't aware of the trouble that she caused or if she didn't care...

No, it was most likely the former rather than the latter.

I preferred to believe that she wasn't that cold hearted since that would be bad for me if she

was.

If she was that cold hearted, then when it came to the Tide Empire and the Merman Empire... That was why I didn't want to believe that she was cold hearted.

Since I was bringing the source of the problem here, I should compensate them to a certain extent. At the same time, I should help them since it was my duty as the king to make sure that my people didn't suffer.

So at the very least, I could buy a few things that they were selling.

As for money...well, if I was a poor king, then I might as well stop being a king.

After coming to a decision, I had the shadows let a few of the merchants through so that they could sell us a few things.

However, I never realized how big of a mistake that was.

The moment that the merchants came through the blockade of the shadows, the first thing that they did was...

"Dear customer, please take a look at this precious vase!"

"No, no, dear customer, don't look at that shoddy vase! Come and have a look at our beautiful statues!"

"Beautiful? More like it belongs in the trash!"

They all started shoving their goods in my face and trying to sell their goods to me.

It was just that they had no care for personal space as they had gone completely crazy about selling their goods.

After spending some time watching Haley work, I had a good idea what the quality of these items were. They definitely were not the best quality items, but they weren't considered that bad either.

The problem was that I really didn't have a need for any of the things that they showed me, or else I might have bought a few things.

I had hoped that I could buy a few things that seemed interesting, but that wasn't the case.

I didn't know what I was expecting from merchants that sold items to villages all around the kingdom.

I thought that they might have one or two good things that I could spend a bit extra on, but that didn't seem to be the case.

It really seemed like I wouldn't be able to find anything to buy.

However, that wasn't the case.

That was because there was someone who was quite good at spending my money.

She was silent at first, but then she started gushing over the things that the merchants showed her even though they were nothing more than ordinary things.

"What is this?"

"Are you saying that all humans use this thing?"

"This must be a work of human art, it's so interesting!"

The way that she said all of this made it clear that she wanted to buy everything.

The only problem was...this person was the mermaid Ariel who didn't have any human money.

It wasn't as if she had thought about bringing human money along since she didn't know what to expect from this trip. At the same time, it seemed like the mermaid money that she brought was completely useless since the merchants didn't recognize it.

So the only thing that Ariel could do was turn to me.

She looked at me with a pleading look, like she was asking me for money.

I gave a sigh before pulling out my wallet.

I didn't really want to buy anything useless like this, but the only thing that I could do was think of this as a necessary fund to befriend a mermaid.

Chapter 888: Not an empty vase

The things that Ariel bought in the end were all useless to me and anyone else in my group.

These were normal everyday items that would be useful to commoners in villages, but they really didn't have any use to me.

In fact, they were just taking up space after I bought them.

At the same time, it was as if Ariel lost interest in these things right after I bought them.

So I had to figure out a way to deal with these things.

It was Angela who gave me a solution, "Just donate them to villages in need."

That was the only thing that we could do with these things since we didn't have a need for these things in the first place.

It was interesting watching Ariel look over the goods that the merchants showed her.

It seemed like she was only interested in the most mundane and normal things.

When they tried to show her some of their specialty goods, it didn't seem like she was interested at all. It was as if she had already seen these things before, so she wasn't interested in them.

The worst case of this was the pearl necklace that one of the merchants tried selling her.

"What am I supposed to do with this trash?"

That was her response when she was shown the pearl necklace.

It wasn't just that merchant who owned this pearl necklace who was shocked, even the other merchants were shocked when they heard her say this.

A pearl necklace was considered a luxury good no matter how one looked at it. It took many lives just to find the pearls for these necklaces and then put them together like this.

That was why pearls had always been sold for a high price.

But now this young lady was just calling it trash...

The merchant who owned the pearl necklace really didn't know how to feel about this...

For those that didn't know her identity, they didn't understand why she would act this way. It was different for those that did know her identity.

It was even more different for me who knew her identity and knew about the mermaids.

I knew that pearls were considered actual trash for those who lived under the sea since they were found all over the place. It was to the point where they were no longer able to get rid of it easily, which meant that the underwater residents considered them useless trash.

So it wasn't strange that Ariel had called the necklace trash.

In the end, she was able to settle down and continue buying things with my money.

But there were things that she ignored just like the pearl necklace.

That was just the difference in value between humans and mermaids.

After a while, it seemed like she was finally done buying things.

It was just that she had bought quite a bit of things that it was hard for us to transport them all back with us. To bring them all back to the capital with us, we would need to arrange quite a bit of transport.

So I just left that matter to Angela since she knew how to take care of this best.

During this time, Ariel caught me alone.

"Thank you for spending all that money going along with my whims, I'll be sure to pay you back later." She said in a sincere voice.

I was very surprised to hear her say this since this wasn't the impression that I had of her.

I didn't think that she was someone that was even capable of being polite like this, but it seemed like I was completely wrong.

Though it wasn't strange that I was wrong.

The way that she acted reminded me of a different person when I first met her.

She reminded me of Angela.

Both of them were princesses, so they had been raised in a way where they would act with manners no matter where they were. As such, it wasn't that strange to see Ariel acting this way.

"It's fine. You're our guest and I'm sure that you don't have the money for our land, so it's only normal that we help our guest a bit." I waved my hand at her in a casual manner as I said this.

Ariel just said with a faint smile, "Yes, but is it really normal to spend that much unless you want something in return?"

I narrowed my eyes to look at her, but seeing that she didn't have any hostility, I said with a shrug and a sigh, "It's good that you know this. It'll make things much easier in the future."

Ariel suddenly gave a chuckle before saying, "I'll keep that in mind."

Then all of a sudden, that smile disappeared from her face as she said, "I don't know what kind of favour you will be asking, but there are a few things that I have to tell you first."

I was once again surprised to see this side of her, but since she was being this serious...

I revealed a serious look as well and gave a firm nod.

I released what I felt was the aura of a king since I was the king of this land.

It was Ariel's turn to reveal a trace of surprise in her eyes, but she still said with the same serious look, "No matter what you request of me, I will never betray my people or my kingdom. I hope that you will keep that in mind."

I raised a brow when I heard this before asking, "Is that it?"

Ariel also raised a brow before saying with a sigh, "That's quite the important thing, isn't it?"

I gave a nod before saying with a smile, "It certainly is, but I don't think that I've given off such a bad impression. Do you think that I am that kind of person?"

Ariel was once again surprised before shaking her head with a smile that had a trace of bitterness in it, "No, I don't think you're that bad."

Then in a more serious voice, she said, "Then I'm looking forward to working with you."

I gave a simple nod as I looked at her with a strange look.

There was only one thing in my mind.

"So she wasn't just an empty vase."

Chapter 889: Returning through the sky

It took three days before our method of returning arrived.

The first thing that happened was that the very next day, the noble that was in charge of this town announced that the water monster had been taken care of.

This was arranged by the shadows who had an order that had both mine and the prime minister's signature. With such a document, there was no way that they would be able to raise any complaint.

Even if they weren't certain if the water monster had even been taken care of, the noble that was in charge of the town had no choice but to make this announcement.

There weren't any merchants that dared to test the waters though.

Even if the noble in charge of the town had made this announcement, it didn't seem like any of the merchants believed in this announcement. After all, they had suffered under the threat of the water monster for so long that they just found it hard to believe such an announcement. No one was willing to act as the one that tested the waters for the others.

It wasn't just because of their precious goods, it was also because of the fact that there was nothing more important than their lives.

They weren't willing to risk their lives on this unreliable information.

As such, there was no one that set out from the town even though it had been announced that the water monster had been dealt with.

It was only three days later when the wyverns arrived that people finally set off.

The wyverns were actually our transport back to the capital, but the reason for the appearance of the wyverns given to the public was that they were here to clean up after the monster.

They found a completely different water monster that they dragged out of the river to show all of the merchants.

This only worked because none of the merchants had actually seen Ariel when they were attacked.

It turned out that she had only sung for them and then attacked when they tried to attack her because they thought that she was a siren. So they had only seen the waves of the water slamming their ships and nothing else.

That was why no one was able to question the monster that was fished out of the river as a

cover.

After they were placated, the ships started heading out of the town again and the economy started to flow.

It seemed like this place was beginning to recover, which was why it was time for us to leave. Of course, we couldn't just get on the wyverns in town, so we had actually left the town a bit earlier than when the wyverns set off. We came to a clearing that wasn't that far from the town and waited for the wyverns to appear.

When the wyverns landed, there was one person that immediately rushed over to them.

This person had already looked at the wyverns with eyes that were sparkling when they appeared in the town earlier, but she had been held back from rushing over to have a closer look at them.

This person was naturally Ariel who had come to the land for the first time.

"It's amazing! I never thought that humans would have the ability to tame these proud wyverns! I thought that it would be impossible for humans to do something like this when I heard about it, but now that it's in front of my eyes...I have no choice but to admit that humans really are amazing!"

As Ariel said this in an excited voice, everyone looked at her with a faint smile on their faces.

At the same time, they snuck peeks at me which had strange tones to them.

I knew why they were acting this way.

After all, they had acted the same way when they saw the wyverns for the first time.

As for the one that gave them this shock, it was naturally me, which was why they were looking at me like this.

I didn't say a thing as Ariel continued admiring the wyverns, I just walked over to Joan who was waiting for me.

There was someone else on her back on the way here, but they got off her back the moment that they arrived to make way for me.

Everyone knew that I was the only one who could truly make her listen, so they always yielded to me.

Seeing me come over to Joan's side, Ariel didn't hesitate to come over as well.

She looked closely at Joan before saying, "You are really something else!"

Of course she meant Joan, not me.

Ariel could tell what was special about Joan, which was why she praised her so much.

Joan raised a wing to her face, as if she was embarrassed about being praised like this.

But eventually we all got on her back and headed to the capital.

"WOOO!!!"

This cry of joy rang out through the air as we flew high above the land.

It was a good thing that I had the wyverns fly high up so that no one would notice us, or else everyone would be staring up at the sky as we flew over them with how much of a commotion Ariel was raising.

She looked like a child that was visiting the amusement park for the first time.

She even had her arms up in the air like she was riding a roller coaster for the first time.

I shook my head seeing this, but I didn't stop her since I could understand how she was feeling.

Though there was a look in Ariel's eyes that seemed a bit dangerous that concerned me.

It was the way that she looked at the wyverns that the others rode.

It looked like she was looking at them with a bit of possessiveness in her eyes.

It almost looked like she wanted to become a wyvern rider herself.

Of course, that would never happen since we couldn't give our wyverns to outsiders.

Even a royal guest wasn't an exception.

Chapter 890: I don't like him

With the wyverns, we made it back to the capital in no time at all.

It only took a single day of traveling, though we did stop midway to stay in one of the towns for the night.

It was possible for us to make it back in the middle of the night with the speed of the wyverns, but it wasn't as if we could make our royal guest travel in the middle of the night like this.

So we stopped in the town, but that wasn't the only reason.

Even a fool was able to see the way that Ariel looked at the wyverns.

The other reason that we stopped was to give her a chance to ride around on the wyverns a bit longer. Though that did make the people of the town a bit anxious seeing the wyvern circling around the town like this.

The noble in charge of the town even came to find out what was happening, but there was nothing that he could do in the face of a decree that had my signature on it.

He could only accept that the wyvern was going to fly around his town and went off to calm the people.

When we arrived in the capital the next day, there was no commotion at all.

The people were used to seeing wyverns coming in and out of the city, but it was even less than normal.

The reason for that was...

The prime minister was waiting where we landed.

It seemed that he had made sure that everyone was kept away for this specific reason.

When we arrived, the first thing that he did was...

"Brother in law, you've really caused quite a bit of trouble for me this time." Noah said with a bitter smile on his face.

Instead of calling me 'your majesty', he was calling me brother in law.

It meant that instead of being on official business, he was just here to complain to me.

Well, I was already used to hearing him complain to me like this, so I patted him on the shoulder and said, "Well, this is for the good of our kingdom. You should already know the situation, so what do you think that we should do next?"

Noah slightly knitted his brows when he heard this and he didn't answer right away.

In the end, he didn't answer my question at all as he turned to look at the others getting off the wyverns.

There was one person in particular that he turned his eyes to.

Who else would it be but Ariel?

The way that he looked at her wasn't as if he was interested in her, but rather he was trying to figure out what he could do with her. The way that he looked at her was almost as if he was looking at a chess piece rather than a human.

Ariel could feel that something was off as she felt a chill run down her spine from this gaze.

After looking around a bit, she turned to see Noah who was standing beside the human that she had made a contract with.

Seeing the way that he looked at her...she suddenly moved out of the way and went behind Angela who was nearby.

It was only when she went behind Angela that Noah stopped looking at her.

That was because Angela was glaring back at Noah.

I had seen all of this and shook my head with a faint smile, but I didn't stop them.

When it was over, I stepped forward to Angela and Ariel to say, "Come over, I have someone that I want to introduce to you."

I was naturally talking to Ariel, but it was both of them who came over.

Ariel, who found that Angela was a good shield, didn't let her leave her side, so Angela could only come along with them.

Once she came over, I gestured at Noah and said, "This is my brother in law and the brother of Angela over here, as well as the former fourth prince and the current prime minister of our kingdom, Noah."

Noah just looked at her with a smile on his face that was completely different from the way that he looked at her before.

He had a handsome face, though not as handsome as mine.

It was handsome enough that it would be able to fool some girls if he acted this way.

It was just that...

"I don't like him."

That was the response that he received from Ariel.

All of us were surprised that she would be this blunt, but then both Angela and I suddenly burst into laughter.

Only Noah stood there with an awkward and bitter smile on his face.

He couldn't take our laughing anymore, so he said, "Sister, brother in law, stop laughing and explain things already!"

The two of us laughed even more when we heard this.

After all, this was the first time that we've seen him acting this way before.

In truth, there were very few people that could make him act this way.

The only ones that could make him act this way were those that he was unfamiliar with, but he knew that had more power than him. As for this princess from the Merman Empire, she

certainly was someone with more power than him.

She was someone that had even more power than me, so she was certainly someone to fear.

After laughing for a bit, I finally wiped the tears from my eyes and turned to Ariel to ask, "What don't you like about him?"

Ariel narrowed her eyes to look at Noah before saying, "He's too fake."

We were all surprised to hear her say this, but I was the only one that really understood what she meant by this.

In the lore of the game, it was said that mermaids were very sensitive to those that were pure

or not.

They disliked those that they felt were dirty and that came in many different forms.

By the definition of the mermaids, the former fourth prince was someone that was quite dirty since he relied heavily on schemes to achieve his goals. He was someone that didn't hesitate to throw people away after all.

So in a sense, she had struck at the essence of who Noah was.

Shota's Isekai NTR Adventure #Chapter 891: I want everything - Read Shota's Isekai NTR Adventure Chapter 891: I want everything

Chapter 891: I want everything

After a long silence, Noah looked at the two of us and said, "Sister, brother in law, you should at least speak up for me."

Angela and I looked at each other before I went forward to pat Noah on the shoulder.

As I patted him on the shoulder, I said, "I'm sorry, there's nothing that we can do."

He looked at me with an aggrieved look, but I still said, "You know what kind of person you are. Trust is something that is built up over time, so you have to prove that you're someone worth trusting. There's nothing that we can do for you."

Angela nodded at Noah from behind me.

That just made him let out a sigh, but he eventually nodded in agreement as well.

It seemed like he accepted the situation for what it was and came to the decision that he would do what he could to reverse it.

Since that was the case, there was no need to rub it in for Noah anymore.

Instead, we all entered the carriage that he prepared...or at least we would have if not for the fact that Ariel wouldn't sit in the same carriage as Noah.

So in the end, he and I went to another carriage that he prepared while the girls all took that first carriage. It seemed like they wanted me to come with them, but I chose to go with Noah in the end.

It wasn't that I wanted to comfort him, it was that I had something that I wanted to discuss with him in private.

That was why I took the carriage alone with Noah.

As we headed to the castle, I asked him, "So, what's been happening recently?"

Noah reverted back to the prime minister and told me everything that happened recently. Well...he didn't tell me everything since there were just too many things in the first place and it would have been impossible for him to tell me everything that happened. So he just gave me a summarized version of what happened during the time that I was away.

It didn't seem like anything unexpected happened during this time.

The prime minister was skilled in taking care of the country like a king would, so he could run the country all on his own without my help.

It didn't really matter if I was here or not.

It was just that he didn't want to take the throne and just wanted to live a life where he supported the throne.

I always thought that it was a waste of his talents, but he was a man who would rather sacrifice himself for the good of the country.

I knew that I couldn't push him or he might take things too far.

The one thing that I did note was how he pointed out that the increased monster activity was happening in the surrounding countries. I didn't know if he was planning on helping them or pushing them over the edge, but I knew that he had some plans for the other countries.

It was just that this wasn't the time to discuss this.

When we arrived at the castle, Ariel excitedly ran out of the carriage and came over to me to say, "This country of yours really is amazing! I want to see everything that it has to offer!"

I was a bit taken aback when I saw her like this, but I could guess from the way that my wives looked at me what had happened.

They most likely talked to her about the different things that they knew about in this country while passing by the sights of the capital. For a human loving mermaid like Ariel, this was just too much excitement for her, which was why she acted this way.

She didn't even seem to care that Noah, the one that she hated, was beside me.

I shook my head with a faint smile before saying, "Before you get too excited, how about we go in and have a little talk first? There's something that I want to discuss with you before we talk about what you'll be doing next."

Ariel's eyes were still filled with excitement, but this look faded a bit when she heard what I said.

She narrowed her eyes to look at Noah as if she didn't trust him before giving a slow nod.

Noah shook his head and gave a sigh, but he didn't say anything in the end as he led us into the castle.

Instead of heading to my study as per usual, he brought us to one of the dining rooms of the castle.

This was a formal dining room that was used to greet guests.

Of course, we didn't just come here to talk.

There was also food that was prepared waiting for us.

We had arrived in the middle of the day, so it was actually time for lunch when we arrived. He had anticipated this and had prepared everything...though it was most likely one of the shadows that had sent this news to the prime minister, which was why it was prepared in such a short period of time.

I didn't know what kind of method they used to communicate with each other, but it seemed like it was much more unlimited than I thought.

Ariel was happy to try all these human dishes, but she glared at the prime minister as if she was wary of him. She was like a child that was wary of an adult who had suddenly offered to

give them candy.

This was certainly a first for the prime minister, which made him feel even more awkward.

In the end, he even had no choice but to sit at the end of the table since Ariel wouldn't let him anywhere near him.

However, that didn't seem to put a damper on her appetite.

Once she saw me start to eat, she didn't hesitate to eat as well.

That was a good sign.

It meant that she at least trusted me enough to believe that there was nothing wrong with the

food if I ate it.

Once the meal was over, I tapped my spoon on my cup to get everyone's attention before looking at Ariel to say, "Now, let's have a discussion."

Chapter 892: Possible engagement

There was an awkward silence that followed as Ariel didn't seem to hear me at all.

She was completely focused on the dessert that the maid brought her that she didn't seem to hear a single thing that was happening around her.

There was an awkward look that appeared on my face seeing this, but I stopped my wives who were beside her from interrupting her as she ate.

When she was done, I finally said the same thing again.

Ariel looked at me with a surprised look this time before slowly giving a nod and saying, "Alright, I have a few things that I want to discuss with you as well."

I was surprised to hear this, but I gave a slow nod in response.

When the dishes were cleared and the maids left the room, I didn't speak right away as I looked at the prime minister.

Only when I saw him giving a nod did I say, "Let's talk about the favour that I want to ask of you."

At this, Ariel finally revealed a serious look. However, at the very least, she gave a nod and didn't seem like she was against this.

I took a deep breath and looked like I was arranging my thoughts. It was only when the prime minister looked at me with a look that seemed like he was encouraging me to speak.

With another deep breath, I said, "There's a problem in our kingdom that I want your help with."

Ariel raised a brow hearing this, but she didn't say anything as she waited for me to explain.

I took another deep breath before continuing, "We've run into a problem with the Tide Empire that we need your help with. As long as you're willing to help, I'm certain that this problem will easily resolve itself."

To our surprise, there was a look of difficulty that appeared on Ariel's face.

It didn't seem like she was confused by what she heard, it just seemed like there was something about this that made it difficult for her to act.

It seemed like it was related to the Tide Empire...

Since she wasn't saying anything, I continued by saying, "Just a while ago, we might have done something that might provoke the Tide Empire's royal family. We were hoping that with your help, we would be able to smooth this out with the Tide Empire."

I was even more surprised when I saw Ariel's face filling with even more difficulty.

It was clear that there was something that was making this hard for her to accept.

None of us said a thing since unless she told us what was making this hard for her, we wouldn't be able to move on.

After a long silence, Ariel gave a sigh and said, "Since you're asking me this favour, you should know the relationship between the Tide Empire and our Merman Empire, right?" We were completely taken aback when we heard this.

The others had confused looks on their faces, but I wasn't confused at all.

I didn't tell them about the relationship between the Tide Empire and the Merman Empire after all, though there were some people that had their suspicions because of the rumours about the Tide Empire.

So when it was confirmed for them, it was a bit shocking and confusing.

However, I gave a simple nod as I waited for Ariel to continue her explanation.

Ariel gave another sigh when she saw this before saying, "In the past period of time, the Tide Empire suddenly started trying to build a deeper relationship with our Merman Empire. Even though we have maintained a good relationship because of our shared ancestors, it seems like they want to deepen that relationship."

The moment that we heard this, all of us knitted our brows.

The prime minister and I immediately looked at each other as we could guess what the reason for this was, but we still didn't say anything as we kept listening to what Ariel had to say.

She had paused as if she was gathering her thoughts before she continued to say, "They have proposed that an engagement be formed between our royal families."

"So you ran away?" I suddenly cut her off.

It wasn't hard to guess what the situation was with what Ariel said, but that confused me quite a bit.

After all, this wasn't the case in the game.

In the game, after meeting Ariel and progressing along her storyline, the main character would be invited to the Merman Empire. However, there was no sign that the Merman Empire had been in contact with the Tide Empire about a possible engagement in the game.

The game had been quite in depth with the Merman Empire after all, so there were quite a few quests that were found under the water.

There wasn't a single one that involved the engagement between the royal families of the Tide Empire and the Merman Empire...

That was why I was confused hearing this.

Ariel was surprised to hear me ask this, but after a moment of hesitation, she gave a slow nod. The way that she looked at me was as if she was asking me to understand her situation. Since she had run away, she was naturally the one that the Tide Empire had proposed to. So if she were to get involved with the Tide Empire to return the favour to us, there was no doubt that she would be caught up in this mess once more. She had just run away, so she didn't want to be caught up in this again.

That was why it was difficult for her.

I could see the others looking at me as if they were asking me what we should do about this,

but there was only a look of deep thought that was on my face as this happened.

I understood that Ariel had her own circumstances, but it wasn't as if we could just give up on this idea since it was an important matter for our kingdom...

"What if we..." I started to say this before suddenly cutting myself off.

Chapter 893: Feel sorry for them

Everyone looked at me with bated breath when they heard this.

There was even a bit of aggrievement in their eyes at the fact that I was keeping them waiting like this, but it couldn't be helped since I was still figuring out my thoughts.

There were things that I didn't know since they were not in the game, so I had to think them through before saying them out loud.

Finally, Ariel couldn't take it anymore and said, "What is it? What is your plan?"

I was pulled out of my thoughts, but I didn't tell her anything about a plan. Instead, I said, "Well, you see, the problem that our kingdom is facing right now is that we might have gotten involved with someone related to the royal family of the Tide Empire."

I went on to explain the situation with Viper and what he had claimed about the Tide Empire. But while I was still explaining this, Ariel suddenly said, "What does that have to do with my situation?"

I looked at her with a faint smile before saying, "Of course it's all related."

Ariel had a very confused look when she heard this, but she wasn't the only one that looked this way. The others that were at the table all seemed to have some degree of confusion on their faces, that was except for two people.

They were Rose and Noah.

The two of them had their brows knitted as if they were lost in deep thought while listening to what I had to say.

In the end, it was Noah who spoke first as he said in a hesitant voice, "You want to get Princess Ariel involved in this matter?"

I revealed another faint smile when I heard him say this before turning to give him a nod. Noah and Rose deeply knitted their brows when they heard this, but they didn't say anything in response.

Everyone looked even more confused when they heard this, but Angela didn't just sit still this time.

After all, the person who was speaking had changed, so there was no need for her to hold back. Pushing her chair back and standing up, she walked over to Noah and raised her fist. Noah didn't seem to notice this at first, but it was hard to miss when she brought that fist right up in front of his face.

There was a bitter look on Noah's face when he saw this as he said, "Big sister, what are you doing?"

Angela just said with a sweet smile, "Tell me what's going on, or you're going to get it." The bitterness grew on Noah's face and he looked over at me as if he was looking for help, but I just tactfully chose to turn away and pretend I didn't see a thing.

There was a look that seemed like he felt betrayed by this, but once again I pretended like I didn't see a thing.

With a sigh, Noah said, "It's not a concrete plan, but if there was something that happened between Viper and Princess Ariel, what do you think would happen?"

Angela raised a brow like she was confused by this before bringing his fist forward like she was threatening him to say, "Make it more clear."

Noah shook his head with a bitter smile before continuing with a sigh, "If Viper is related to the Tide Empire's royal family and he were to offend Princess Ariel who is the princess of the Merman Empire, do you think that there would still be any further talks of engagement?"

Slow looks of realization appeared on their faces when they heard this.

But at the same time, the others turned to look at Ariel with looks of worry.

After all, this was no doubt a plan that would cause damage to the Merman Empire.

First, the relationship between the Tide Empire and the Merman Empire would be destroyed because of this incident.

With such a large incident involving the royal families of both empires, there was no doubt that there would be a large tension formed between them.

Second, this would surely hurt the relationship between Ariel and her parents since she would be going against her parents like this.

And finally...there might be damage between relations between humans and mermaids because of this.

Since this was an incident between Ariel, the mermaid princess and the Tide Empire, which was now a human empire, there was no doubt that human and mermaid relationship would degrade because of this.

In the future, it would be harder for mermaids to have any relations with the humans on land because of this matter.

So everyone was worried that Ariel would reject this.

Though there wouldn't be a single person that would blame her if she did reject this plan.

But to everyone's surprise...

"This is a great plan!"

No one expected this to come from Ariel's mouth.

She could see everyone looking at her, so she said with a wide smile on her face, "It isn't as if

this will harm the Merman Empire that much, you're looking down on the Merman Empire a bit too much if you think that this will be enough to hurt us."

The way that she said this was as if she was fully confident in the power of the Merman Empire, but...

"This will teach my mom and dad to go behind my back like this."

It seemed that there was a vengeful side to Ariel as well.

It seemed that she was holding a grudge against her parents, which was why she was in favour

of this plan.

In the end, we still decided to go with this plan for now.

It seemed like the easiest way to handle the Tide Empire, so it was best to just go with this

plan.

The only thing that I could say as I listened to Noah and Rose cementing the plan was...

"I really can't help feeling sorry for them."

Chapter 894: Powerful legs (1)

The next morning, there were dark bags that were under my eyes.

That was because I barely slept the night before.

Since I had been away for so long, I wasn't allowed to go to sleep by my wives...

They had dragged me into our bedroom without care for our guest who they just left with the prime minister to take care of and then kept me in bed all night.

With seven of them, it really was hard to have enough energy to satisfy them all, but I did my best.

But since it had been a while since we had done it, it took much more energy than usual to satisfy them all.

They were insatiable...

When morning came, they were all gone since they all had things to take care of since they were in positions that came with responsibilities. Since we were back in the castle, there was no need for them to spend all day with me since they would know where I was at night.

That gave me some alone time with Ariel when I went for breakfast.

As I sat down, I could see her glaring at me.

"Thanks for abandoning me with that fake man last night." There was a resentful tone in her voice as she said this.

There was a bitter smile that crept onto my face when I heard this.

It was certainly the first time that I heard someone address the prime minister as such, so it was definitely hearing her call him this.

However, I at least had to speak up for him, "Just give him some time, you'll get use to him." "Hmph." Ariel said while turning her head to the side.

I didn't say anything else about this and instead changed the topic by asking, "What do you want to do today? There will still be some time before we finish investigating Viper's background, so we won't be able to move just yet."

The problem with Viper was that we weren't certain that he was related to the Tide Empire's royal family.

We had been following up on some leads about him, but we hadn't found anything concrete that connected him to the Tide Empire's royal family yet. However, we also hadn't found anything that disproved this, so we had no choice but to keep searching.

Only when we found our proof would we be able to do anything, so there was still some time before we put the plan we had come up with in action.

That meant that there was some time before we needed Ariel's help.

As such, there wasn't much for Ariel to do during this time.

Though it didn't seem like we needed to worry about her since she was someone who was just obsessed with studying humans.

We had no idea why she was so obsessed with humans, but it seemed like she wanted to learn everything about them.

But today it was...

"I want to test out my new legs." Ariel said in response to my question.

I was surprised since I didn't expect this answer, but I also couldn't help looking at her legs. She was wearing a dress that had a slit in it, so I was able to see the smooth white skin of her legs. It was like a fresh field of snow that had been untouched with how white and smooth it was.

Since mermaids spent most of the time under the water, that meant that they didn't get as much sun as humans.

As such, their skin was much lighter compared to human skin.

As for why she was wearing that dress with the slit...well, she had gotten into the habit of keeping her legs together like they were a tail since that was what she was used to. As such, she couldn't wear anything restrictive and opted for this dress with the slit in it.

Ariel revealed a faint smile when she saw me looking at her before teasing, "Do you want a closer look?"

I quickly shook my head and changed the topic by asking, "How are you planning to test them?"

"Well, Cecilia told me about the training of the knights. I figured that I would go and spar with them to see how these new legs hold up." Ariel said in a confident voice.

I was once again surprised by this answer since I never thought that she would be this violent.

However, it seemed that this mermaid princess was quite the tomboy...

Well, I already knew that since that was the personality that she had in the game.

I just didn't expect it to be this intense though.

In the end, I chose to go with Ariel to watch over the training since there wasn't much for me to do in the first place.

There might be a few documents for me to go over, but the prime minister would bring them over when he needed me. Before that time came, I had some time to spare to watch her spar with the knights.

When we arrived, the knights immediately stopped what they were doing and saluted me. The ones that came forward as the representatives of the knights were a muscular middle aged man and a curvy purple haired girl that had her hair in a ponytail. They were the leader and vice leader of the royal guards respectively.

The leader was named Klein and the vice leader was named Elizabeth.

Both of them saluted me before looking at Ariel with one brow raised.

Ariel was someone who was only known by those that needed to know who she was, so it wasn't strange that these two didn't recognize her. We would introduce her to the people in the castle later, but for now...it was better to keep her a secret since there was no telling who would leak her identity.

I gave a nod in response to the two of them before saying to Klein, "Can you send out one of your female knights to spar with this guest of ours?"

Chapter 895: Powerful legs (2)

Klein looked even more confused when he heard this before looking over at Ariel with one brow raised.

The way that he looked at her was almost as if he was scoping her out.

When he finished, he turned back to me to say, "Your majesty, are you sure about this?"

I didn't blame him for feeling this way since it didn't seem to me that Ariel was a warrior either. She was quite slender compared to the female knights and even if she did have

some muscle, it wasn't as if she looked strong enough to be a match for the female knights.

I didn't think that she was strong enough to face the female knights either, but this was what Ariel wanted.

Since she was the royal guest, I had no choice but to go along with it.

However, I had also made sure to come up with a special method of sparring so that no one would be hurt because of it.

I gave a simple nod to Klein and said, "It's fine, just call any of your knights over."

Klein looked at me with one brow raised as if he was still doubtful of this, but in the end he still called out to one of the knights that was looking over here.

"Erina, come over here."

The one called Erina was a pink haired knight with flowing long hair and a single side braid hanging to the left of her head. She had a curvy body that gave her a perfect hourglass and her chest...might even give Cecilia a run for her money.

However, the moment that I saw her, I couldn't help feeling that she looked very similar...

Almost as if I had seen her somewhere before...

It wasn't the game that I remembered her from, but rather it seemed like I had seen her in some kind of doujin before.

I remembered that it had something to do with orcs...

While I was lost in a daze looking at her, Erina calmly walked over and saluted Klein before saying, "Captain, do you need something?"

Klein gave a nod before pointing at Ariel and saying, "His majesty wants you to spar with this guest."

Erina slightly knitted her brows when she heard this and there seemed to be a trace of unwillingness that formed in her eyes. But she didn't reject this command and just simply said, "Yes, captain."

It was clear that she didn't feel like sparring against Ariel would be good training, she even felt like it would be a waste of her time. However, she was a royal guard and there was no way for her to disobey a direct order.

So she just went over to the center of the training field where there was an arena waiting and then pulled out her sword to point at Ariel.

The way that she stood there, it was almost as if she was calling Ariel to come to her.

Klein gave a cough when he saw the dazed way that I was looking at Erina and said, "Your majesty, should we go over and watch?"

I snapped out of my daze when he directly addressed me, but I shook my head and said, "No, no, we're not doing that kind of sparring."

"Huh?" Everyone looked at me with a surprised and confused look when they heard this.

What else could sparring mean other than going on stage and fighting each other?

I could see the way that everyone looked at me, but I just shook my head and gave a sigh before going over to the side to pick up one of the swords.

With that sword in hand, I started to draw a circle in the sand.

I had the people around me move back as I drew this circle.

Once the circle was done, I went to the center and drew two lines there.

Looking at what I drew, I gave a satisfied nod before turning to Erina and Ariel to say, "Come over here."

Both of them had confused looks on their faces when they came over and they didn't know where to stand since they didn't know what I wanted from them.

I was about to explain it, but then I realized that it would be better if I just directly demonstrated what I wanted them to do to them. So I looked at Klein and waved my hand at him before saying, "Captain, can you come over and help me demonstrate?"

Klein was surprised to hear me calling for him, but he still came over to see what I was up to. Once he came over, I had him stand on one of the lines while I stood on the other.

Seeing this, he couldn't help asking, "Your majesty, this is?"

"We're going to try and push each other out of the ring without any weapons. We'll be depending purely on our strength to push each other out."

"Huh?" Klein had a confused look after hearing this explanation, but I didn't bother explaining anymore.

In cases like this, it was better to just give a demonstration rather than trying to explain.

So once the two of us were in position, I said, "Begin!"

Klein was still confused, but his reactions were still there. These were reactions that had been built over years of being in the royal guards and years of being on active duty, so it wasn't something that would betray him.

There was only a second of hesitation before he came at me with his hands outstretched.

It was just too bad that I knew more tricks than he did.

This new body of mine was a bit short, so there was a size difference between us.

Before he could grab me, I suddenly dived forward under him.

Then before Klein could react, I suddenly grabbed his legs and pulled them up.

With the force that he charged forward with and the force that I added, his legs came right off the ground and he was sent flying past me.

Chapter 896: Powerful legs (3)

When it was all over and the dust settled, Klein found that he had flown outside of the ring.

He had landed face first on the ground, so it made him look quite awkward, but he wasn't in the mood to care about that.

The look on Klein's face was almost as if he was trying to figure out what just happened.

What happened was that I had used his own force against him.

I knew that when it came to a sumo match, the most important thing was keeping one's center of balance. The most important part of that was making sure to keep one's legs rooted to the ground.

So the key was having strong legs.

Klein's mistake was charging forward with all his might and offsetting his center of balance, which made it easy for me to use his own power against him.

Just with a little bit of strength, I was able to use his own strength to send him flying like this. Since he had fallen outside of the ring, I let out a sigh of relief and relaxed, but it didn't seem like he was done yet.

When he came back to his senses, Klein immediately came back into the ring and said, "Your majesty, it's not over yet! You caught me off guard, that was it! I want to go again!"

It seemed like he was quite the sore loser, but that wasn't the point right now.

With an awkward smile, I raised my hand to stop him as I said, "That's not the point here, we were just giving a demonstration of how it works."

Though I said this, it didn't seem like he wanted to stop.

Eventually, he did stop asking for a rematch since everyone was watching, but I could tell that he wanted another chance with the way that he looked at me.

With a cough to calm myself down, I turned back to Ariel and Erina to say, "As you can see, this is a match where you try to push your opponents out of the ring. You're not allowed to punch or hit, it's just a match of strength to see who can push one's opponent out of the ring."

After a pause, I added, "Oh, right, you're allowed to slap since that's considered pushing, so feel free to do that."

It didn't seem like there was anything else that I was missing when it came to the rules, so I had Ariel and Erina come over.

As they did, I leaned in closer to Ariel to whisper something.

"The key to winning is all about one's legs. The stronger one's legs are, the better that they can keep their center of balance and avoid being pushed out of the ring. So this should be a good test of your legs."

Ariel looked at me with a surprised look before suddenly revealing a smile.

I had seen the confused look that she had when I explained the rules.

No, even before that, I had seen the confused look that was on her face when she heard that I wanted her to spar with this knight.

This was supposed to be a test of her leg strength, not a sparring session.

But since she knew that this was indeed a test of leg strength, she was filled with confidence. Even though she was facing one of the royal guards, it didn't seem like she was worried at all.

As they went over to the lines like Klein and I had been standing at, Klein came over and said, "This really is an interesting method of sparring. I think that we might be able to implement it into our training as part of our close range combat training."

It seemed that he had forgotten about his loss against me and he was thinking about how effective this could be as a training method.

As expected of the captain of the royal guards.

Or that was what I wanted to think of him...

"Your majesty, you must join our training session again once we've properly implemented this sparring method." The way that Klein looked at me when he said this made it very clear that he had ulterior motives.

It wasn't hard to guess what he was thinking.

He wanted a chance to take revenge for that loss.

Well, it wasn't as if this was a bad thing for me since it would mean that I would be able to get closer to the royal guards in the future.

Loyalty wasn't something that one should just expect, it was something that had to be earned.

Only by getting closer to the royal guards would I be able to earn their loyalty.

Once Ariel and Erina were in position, the two of them suddenly revealed different expressions.

It seemed like both of them were getting into this.

Both of them looked like they were going to take this very seriously as they just stared into each other's eyes.

The way that they stared at each other was almost as if they were scoping each other out.

It was like they were rivals who were keeping track of each other's every movement. Though it did look weird for those that were watching them stand there in silence like this. After a long silence, Erina was the first one to move.

She had seen many different openings that she could exploit, but she had been carefully thinking of her moves since she didn't want a repeat of what happened with Klein.

In her heart, she had to thank the captain for taking the leap for her so she knew what mistakes not to make.

So instead of charging forward with all her might, Erina lowered her body before moving forward.

She made sure to keep her feet firmly planted on the ground while charging forward to push Ariel out of the ring.

Ariel saw this and didn't hesitate to lower her body just like Erina did to match her pushing

motion.

Now it seemed like it was a contest of who was stronger.

Chapter 897: Powerful legs (4)

No matter how one looked at it, it seemed like Erina would be the one winning this clash.

After all, when comparing the physique of the two, it was clear which one of them was stronger than the other.

But the strange thing was...

"Huh?" Erina was shocked when she was suddenly stopped in her tracks.

She looked down at the figure that was under her with a shocked look as she couldn't understand what had just happened.

She had certainly used all of her strength, but she found that she wasn't able to move the smaller figure beneath her. It was almost as if she was pushing up against a rock with how firm this smaller figure was.

Gritting her teeth, Erina gathered all her strength and tried to push Ariel again, but she found that it was completely useless.

It was as if all of her strength was going into a bottomless pit as she tried to push Ariel back.

No matter how she pushed, Ariel just wouldn't budge an inch.

In short, it was like she was pushing up against a steel wall.

"What's going on here?" Erina said in a shocked voice.

But that was her mistake as she felt herself being pushed back all of sudden.

She had to stop herself midway and firmly plant her feet on the ground in an attempt to stop herself from being pushed back. But even though she had her feet firmly planted, it felt like she was slipping.

Just like this, Ariel was able to push Erina back bit by bit in front of everyone's shocked expressions.

Erina had her face completely twisted with effort as if she was trying her best to remain in the ring, but she just couldn't push Ariel back at all. With how hard she was trying, it was almost as if she was about to burst a vessel on her forehead.

It really seemed like something bad was about to happen with how much strength she was trying to use.

But on the other side, it almost seemed easy for Ariel as she slowly pushed Erina back. Well, easy was an overstatement since it still seemed like she was using quite a bit of strength, but she was able to push her back.

Just like this, Erina went all the way to the edge of the ring.

Erina saw this as well even though she was using all her strength to push Ariel back.

She knew that if she didn't do something, then she would lose.

So she took this chance to go all out.

Taking a deep breath, Erina suddenly let go of Ariel and then reached down to grab her as if she wanted to flip her over her head. It seemed like she was trying to use a bridge to catch Ariel off guard.

But Ariel had already stopped herself as soon as Erina let go of her hands and she was ready to receive Erina's diving attack.

In one smooth move, she did the same thing as me where she used Erina's strength against her and flipped her out of the ring.

When it was over, Erina just looked up at the sky above her in a daze as she didn't understand what happened just now.

Ariel let out a sigh of relief before revealing a big smile.

As for the crowd...there was only silence and shock that followed.

There wasn't a single person that seemed like they had expected this result.

No, wait, actually I expected this so I was the only one that didn't seem surprised by the ending.

As for why I wasn't surprised, it was because I already knew why she won.

It was all because of the leg strength that she had.

I wasn't certain if this would be the case, but I already guessed why she wanted to test her legs.

Mermaids had powerful tails since that was the only way that they could move through the ocean. It was the thing that they exercised on a daily basis since it was the part of them that they depended on the most.

Though my only experience with this was seeing them fight with their tails.

A single tail slap from a mermaid was enough to shatter rocks underwater, so there was no need to guess what would happen above the land.

Now that Ariel had her tail turned into human legs, I didn't believe that she would lose all the muscle that was in her tail. I believed that the muscle of her tail would be turned into muscles for her new human leg.

Which was how she was able to stabilize herself like this.

That was why no matter how Erina pushed, she wasn't able to push Ariel back at all.

When Erina came back to her senses, she looked up at Ariel and said, "How did you do it? How are you so strong?"

Everyone looked at Ariel as well as if they were waiting for her answer.

Ariel just raised one leg and said, "It's because I have powerful legs."

"Huh?" Erina was confused at first, but then she quickly turned to look at me.

As for the male knights, there was another reason why they were suddenly dazed.

After all, Ariel was wearing a dress with a slit on the side, so if she raised her leg like this... Well, it did create a beautiful scene.

This tomboy princess really was something else, she didn't think about how she was acting at

all.

Though thinking about it, it couldn't be blamed on the fact that she was a tomboy alone.

It also had to be blamed on the fact that she was a mermaid, so it wasn't as if she was used to having legs in the first place.

I gave a cough to get her attention before pointing down, which caused Ariel to reveal an embarrassed look.

Even if she was a tomboy, she at least had the delicacy of a girl.

Though she did glare at the knights who had been staring at her in a daze.

After reminding her of this, I explained to Erina why she lost.

Chapter 898: Powerful legs (5)

"Like she said, it's because she has powerful legs. With strong legs, one can stabilize one's center of balance better and have a firmer foundation. With those powerful legs, she was able to stop herself from being pushed back."

I went on to explain a few more things from my past life, things that didn't exist in this world.

Scientific terms such as gravity and such.

However, Erina cut me off by saying, "I know that center of balance is important, I've already learned that from the captain's loss."

There was a bitter smile that appeared on Klein's face when he heard this.

He didn't expect this kind of collateral damage after all.

Then she said, "I was already keeping myself planted, but she was still able to push me back."

The way that she said this and the look on her face was almost as if she was implying something.

This was all aimed at me, so it seemed like she was suspecting me of some kind of cheating.

Klein seemed to back this as he said, "Right, did you give her some kind of advice before the match?"

Though he said this in a casual voice, it was clear that he was still sour about his loss earlier.

But with the way that the facts were, it wasn't as if he could change the result just by complaining alone.

The fact that he had lost was a fact.

"No, it's just because her legs are stronger than yours." I didn't beat around the bush at all and directly said this.

All of them were stunned by how blunt I was being.

The one that was the most shocked and a bit offended was Erina.

She looked at me with a strange look before suddenly coming forward.

It wasn't as if she came forward to harm me, but...

She suddenly pulled up the side of her pants to reveal her fair white skin which caught me off guard, but that wasn't all she did. She suddenly slapped the side of her leg which was quite muscular and said, "How can you say that her legs are stronger than mine? Do you not see the definition on these beauties?"

Eh?

Was this the kind of personality that she had?

She seemed like the cool and aloof type, I never thought that she would have this side to her.

The other royal guards were shaking their heads as if they had already expected this.

It seemed like they were all aware of this side of her.

Shaking my head, I said, "Well, take a look for yourself then."

At that, Ariel came forward and showed off her leg. Though this time, it seemed that she was more aware of her own situation and didn't make things too awkward.

She just raised her leg enough to show it off without showing off too much of what was under her dress.

Erina raised a brow when she was shown this, but she still moved forward to touch Ariel's leg. The way that she touched it was different from simply poking at it.

Those that knew how to train their muscles also knew how to appreciate it unlike normal people. So she didn't just poke it randomly like a normal person in this situation would have done.

Instead, she touched certain parts of Ariel's leg with a serious look on her face.

The way that she did this was almost as if she was some kind of connoisseur that was carefully inspecting something.

As she did, the expression on Erina's face changed.

It was a look of surprise at first, but soon there was also a look of admiration that was also on her face.

It was the admiration that one would have for someone that shared their hobbies.

Erina looked up at Ariel and Ariel just gave a simple nod before raising her hand out towards Erina.

The two of them exchanged a look before Erina took Ariel's hand and she stood up with Ariel's help.

The two of them didn't let go of each other's hands and just kept looking at each other before suddenly...giving each other a handshake.

It wasn't a normal handshake, but rather that special kind of manly handshake.

It was a meme in my past life, but now seeing two beautiful girls doing something like this

was really a strange feeling. It really didn't fit them to do something like this...

But then again, it wasn't as if I couldn't understand why they were like this.

It seemed that these muscle brains were more compatible with each other than I thought.

Once they had finished with their handshake, Erina asked Ariel, "How did you get this kind of definition with your legs?"

Ariel didn't hesitate to say, "Swimming. I've been swimming every day since I was born." "Eh? Since you were born?" Erina was a bit surprised by this, but then she just figured that it must be a kind of expression before saying, "So swimming is a big part of your regimen..."

After thinking about it, she turned to Klein to say, "Captain, should we implement it into our training regimen as well?"

Klein had been stroking his chin and looked to be in deep thought the entire time.

When he was called out like this, he said, "That does seem like a good idea. This recent incident has taught us that we need to be more aware of water training as well."

There was a faint smile that appeared on my lips when I heard this since I had brought the cause of the recent incident with me and they just didn't know that.

Klein then turned to me to ask, "Your majesty, I'll have to ask you to approve of this request to add swimming to our training regimen."

I was about to nod in agreement when I realized that something was off.

I narrowed my eyes to look at him before saying, "Why do you need me to approve this?"

Chapter 899: Spread like hotcakes

There was an awkward smile that appeared on Klein's face when he heard this question.

He just looked at me with that awkward look on his face as if he was hoping that I would turn away, but I just calmly looked right into his eyes as I waited for an answer.

In the end, Klein said with a sigh, "Your majesty, the problem is that we don't have a place to train in swimming. The river is too far away for a training session unless it's a full day session and there are no pools in the castle training grounds, so..."

His voice trailed off a bit as the awkwardness increased on his face.

But in the end, he still said, "If your majesty approves of this, then we would be able to build a pool and implement this as part of our training regimen."

Right as soon as his voice fell, he bowed his head and said, "Your majesty, please approve of this request on behalf of the royal guards. We promise that this will make us much stronger in the end."

The others had heard this and they all quickly bowed their heads to me as if they were seriously making this request.

It was just that...I wasn't fooled at all by them.

I could already guess why Klein had made this request of me.

He was trying to use me to get this pool on their behalf, but I wasn't that easy to trick.

I just shook my head and said, "If you want to implement this as part of your regimen, you should submit a proper request to your superiors. Once they've taken a look at your request, I'm sure that they will approve of it."

There was a bitter smile that appeared on Klein's face when he heard this before he tried to say something else.

It was just that I cut him off by raising my hand and saying, "This is something that I don't have the authority to approve."

Klein looked at me with his chin dropped, but I just stuck my tongue out at him.

I wasn't going to let him get me in trouble like this. If he wanted the pool, then he would have to get it himself without relying on me.

After all, the one that was in charge of the treasury and the finances of the castle was Haley.

If I were to approve of this pool purchase, there was no doubt that I would be in trouble.

I would rather lose favorability with the royal guards than let myself get in trouble with my wife for them.

Klein had no choice but to accept this in the end, but it seemed that they were happy about something else.

The other royal guards had already drawn their own sumo rings and were already pushing against each other. Even Klein went to join them after realizing that there was nothing to gain from trying to trick me.

It seemed that all of them had been interested in the sumo competition, it was just that they had been holding back the entire time.

But now that everything had been settled, there was no need for them to hold back anymore.

So they all started organizing their own sumo contest.

Even Klein was having fun playing sumo with the others.

Ariel went off with Erina and they organized a group of female knights that they started sumo matches with.

Since the one that I was accompanying was just having fun, there was no need for me to hold back at all.

I also went off to play sumo with Klein and the others.

...

The next morning at breakfast.

"I've heard that there was something strange spreading through the city." Angela suddenly brought up this topic.

We all looked at her with curious looks, waiting for her to tell us what it was.

She didn't explain as she asked the maid for a pen and a piece of paper.

Once the maid came back with what she asked for, she took them from her hands and started drawing something on the piece of paper.

Only when she was done did she turn the paper around for us to see.

The moment that I saw this, I couldn't help being surprised by what she drew.

That was because on this piece of paper was something familiar to me.

It was the sumo ring that I had shown the royal guards yesterday.

I didn't expect Angela to suddenly draw something like this.

Neither did Ariel who pointed at it and said, "Ah, isn't that the sumo ring?"

Angela was surprised by this outburst and looked at Ariel with one raised brow before asking, "How do you know what this is?"

Ariel pointed at me and said, "Well, he's the one that showed it to the royal guards yesterday."

The others all looked at me in an instant when they heard what Ariel said.

Seeing this, I had no choice but to explain what happened yesterday.

"So it was like this." Angela said with a thoughtful look on her face.

I was confused by this, so I asked, "What happened?"

Angela snapped out of her thoughts hearing this and said with a smile, "It's not anything bad. It's just that there was this new trend that was spreading through the city, so I wanted to know where it came from just in case."

"Spreading through the city? Sumo is spreading through the city?" I asked in a confused voice.

Angela gave a nod before saying, "It's the newest craze and it's spreading quickly since it doesn't actually take anything to play. All the kids in the city are playing sumo now."

With a sigh, she said, "I was worried that it might be a plot from somewhere..."

She kept talking about her worries, but I really didn't hear anything.

There was a bitter feeling inside of me as I thought that this world really was starved for entertainment if even sumo was spreading this quickly.

As for how, I could already guess.

The royal guards had family in the capital, so they must have shown it to their relatives or

their kids, which was how it quickly spread.

I just never expected it to spread this fast.

Chapter 900: Should we help?

The matter with Ariel wasn't one that could be settled that quickly since we still had to do our investigation on Viper's claims.

So before then, there was nothing for Ariel to do other than play around in the castle.

From time to time, she would go to the capital and walk around observing human culture. However, it seemed that the thing that she was most interested in now was sumo with the royal guards.

Perhaps it was because she found friends that shared the same hobby as her.

It turned out that it wasn't only Erina alone who was a muscle brain.

It turned out that many of the female royal guards were the same as her.

They all had the hobby of bodybuilding, so it was easy for them to become friends with Ariel just as Erina had done.

Still, that meant that at least she wouldn't be bored in the castle.

This meant that she would at least be occupied while she was waiting for us to finish our part.

But that didn't mean that I was as free as her.

For the first few days, I was allowed to go around with Ariel since she was a royal guest and it was my duty to show her around.

But after those first few days, I was dragged back into the office by the prime minister.

It seemed that there was some work that he wanted me to do.

Or it was better to say that there was some work that he wanted to toss to me instead of doing it himself. Though the way that he said it was as if it was important work that was for me.

That was why we were in my office holding a meeting this day.

"This is what we have to decide on today." The prime minister said as he placed a document on the desk in front of me.

I looked down at it before raising a brow to look back at him.

That was because what was written on the document was "increased monster activity issues". But that should have been something that I had already solved.

That was the whole reason I had gone to those different places across our country in the first place. That was the whole reason I had collected all those crystals and captured all those dark elves.

So for the prime minister to bring me a report like this...

The prime minister could see the way that I was looking at him and to my surprise, he suddenly revealed a faint smile.

Pointing at the document, he said with the same smile, "Just read it and you'll understand."

I looked even more confused hearing this, but since he was so confident...

I opened up the document and started reading.

The more that I read, the more that my brows knitted.

It turned out that this was a report on increased monster activity, but it wasn't one that was about the increased monster activity in our own territory. This was a report on the increased monster activity in the surrounding kingdoms.

When I was finished reading, I once again looked at the prime minister with a confused look.

After all, the increased monster activity in those kingdoms shouldn't be a problem for us. This was something that was happening in the territory of other kingdoms, so they should be the ones to deal with it themselves.

It wasn't as if those other kingdoms around us had a good relationship with us.

They had once declared war on us, so it wasn't as if we had any good feelings towards them. But here was the prime minister showing me this which meant that he wanted something. The prime minister could see the way that I looked at him, so he said, "I want to discuss whether we should send troops to help them deal with this problem."

This time, I couldn't hold myself back as I said, "Why should we help them in the first place? There's nothing for us to gain from that."

The prime minister just calmly said, "If we don't deal with this, there's the chance that the monsters from these kingdoms will come to our kingdom."

"There's a reason why we have border guards. Not to mention, if it comes to that, that is when we should help them. Helping them at that point will mean that they have reached a point where they can't take care of the problem themselves and it will be easy for us to destroy their kingdom, taking them over."

I looked at the prime minister with a confused look.

It wasn't as if he wouldn't be able to figure this out, so it was even more strange why he wanted to help them.

I just couldn't figure out what he was thinking.

After a moment of silence, the prime minister suddenly said, "Well, it isn't as if there isn't anything for us to gain from this."

The way that he was being mysterious really annoyed me, so I said, "Just tell me what it is that you're planning already."

The prime minister didn't answer this as he said, "Is it that hard to believe that I wouldn't help out of the goodness of my heart?"

"When hell freezes over." There was no hesitation in my voice as I said this.

The prime minister revealed a hurt look as he said, "You really have that little faith in me?"

Once again, I gave a nod without any hesitation.

There was no need for me to be polite with the prime minister since we were in laws.

The prime minister just shook his head with a sad look and gave a sigh.

I had enough, so I stood up as if I was planning to leave.

It was only when I did this that the prime minister put an envelope on the table.

I pointed at it and asked, "This is?"

The prime minister just said with a smile, "You'll know when you read it."